DIY Game: Shut the Box

Build a classic game of counting, addition, and probability to play with your friends!

Kit contains:

- 1 box template
- 9 cardboard rectangles
- 1 straw
- 1 skewer
- 2 dice

You will need: scissors, tape/glue, a pin, writing supplies, and scratch paper.

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Historical-ish reenactment

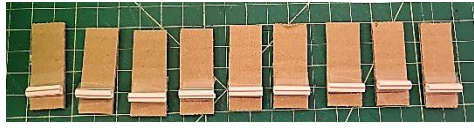
"Shut the Box" is a board and dice game most popular in the UK. Legend has it that the game was invented in 12th century France and/or played by fishermen 200 years ago. However, we don't have a recorded history of its existence before the 20th century. When the number titles are up, the box is "open." The object of the game is to "shut" or flip the tiles.

INSTRUCTIONS

Step 1. Cut out the box template along the magenta outline. Then use a pin to poke a hole through the two dots.

Step 2. Fold the template on the blue lines. Tape or glue the tabs to assemble the box.

Step 3. Line up the cardboard rectangles. Tape or glue the straw about ¼ inch above the bottoms, skipping the bendy bit. Cut the rectangles apart.



Step 4. Poke the skewer through one of the holes in the box (outside to inside). Thread the rectangles on the skewer. Then poke the skewer out the other hole.

Step 5. Number the tops of the rectangles 1 to 9.

Your “Shut the Box” board game is ready to play!

“Shut the Box” (2–4 players)

Needed: 1 board, 2 dice, paper for keeping score

Objective: Shut (flip) as many number tiles as possible during your turn.

Game Play: All turns start with the numbers up. On a player’s turn, roll two dice in the box and add up the numbers. Shut one or more tiles to equal that roll. Example, if you roll 8, you can shut:

- 8
- 1 & 7 **OR** 2 & 6 **OR** 3 & 5
- 5, 2 & 1 **OR** 4, 3 & 1

After shutting tiles, the player continues to roll the dice and shut tiles until they get stuck; that is, can’t flip the total. Add the remaining upright tile numbers to get the player’s score for the turn.

Note: When tiles 7, 8, and 9 are ALL shut, a player can choose to roll one die instead of two.

Variations:
ONE ROUND: the player with the lowest score wins.
MULTIPLE ROUNDS: players get eliminated when they reach a score of 45. Last player standing wins.

If a player shuts the box (flips ALL the tiles) on a turn, they instantly win!